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Message Text

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65
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 OMB-01 IO-11 SAM-01 EUR-12 /093 W
---------- 046190
R 081630Z MAR 76
FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4028
INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 0629

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, AG, SS, US
SUBJECT: SAHARA: MORE ON MOROCCO'S BREAK

REF: RABAT 1295

1. MOROCCAN CHARGE STATES THAT ON MORNING 8 MARCH HE DELIVERED FORMAL NOTE ON BREAK IN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS TO CHIEF OF PROTOCOL IN FOREIGN MINISTRY. HE EXPECTS THAT ALGERIANS WILL REJECT NOTE BECAUSE OF LANGUAGE USED.

2. CHARGE SAYS HE IS AWAITING PRECISE INSTRUCTIONS FROM RABAT AS TO HOW MOROCCANS WISH TO PLAY THE BREAK. IT CONCEIVABLE, HE SAID, THAT EXISTING PERSONNEL COULD REMAIN AS INTERESTS SECTION OF ANOTHER EMBASSY OR POSSIBLY AS LIAISON OFFICE. IN ANY CASE, HE SAID, GIVEN PRESENCE OF 250,000 TO 260,000 MOROCCANS IN ALGERIA, MOROCCO WOULD WISH TO MAINTAIN EXISTING CONSULAR PRESENCE; THERE ARE NOW THREE MOROCCAN CONSULATES IN ALGERIA -- ALGIERS, ORAN AND SIDI BEL-ABBES. HE EXPECTED ALGERIANS WOULD ALSO WISH TO MAINTAIN THEIR EXISTING CONSULAR REPRESENTATION IN MOROCCO (FIVE CONSULATES) IN ORDER TO PROTECT 100,000 ALGERIANS LIVING THERE.
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3. CHARGE STATED THAT MAURITANIAN DELEGATION LED BY FOREIGN MINISTER OULD MOUKNASS HAD VISITED TRIPOLI SATURDAY MARCH 6 IN WHAT HE PRESUMED TO BE EFFORT TO PERSUADE QADHAFI NOT TO RECOGNIZE SDAR. CHARGE DID NOT KNOW RESULTS OF TALKS.

4. HE CONFIRMED IMPRESSION THAT BREAK IN RELATIONS HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH ALGERIAN BEHAVIOR ITSELF. HE POINTED OUT THAT OVER PAST MONTHS THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS JUSTIFIABLE REASONS FOR MOROCCANS TO BREAK RELATIONS HAD THEY WISHED TO DO SO. THIS BREAK TARGETTED AGAINST OTHER COUNTRIES AND DESIGNED TO DEMONSTRATE SERIOUSNESS OF MOROCCAN INTENTIONS SO OTHERS WOULD CONSIDER CAREFULLY ALL RAM-IFICATIONS OF RECOGNITION OF SDAR.

5. SPECULATING ABOUT FUTURE, CHARGE NATURALLY GLOOMY ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR EARLY PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF DIFFERENCES. HE SAID THAT ONLY WAY OUT OF CUREENT IMPASSE BETWEEN ALGERIA AND MOROCCO WILL BE CHANGE IN ONE OF THE REGIMES. HE CLEARLY EXPECTED CHANGE TO COME IN ALGERIA.PARKER

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